

First Annual Report

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...of...

W. F. Clayton, Secretary,

...of the...

Association of Survivors



...of the...



Confederate
States • • •
Navy. • • •



Florence, S. C., March 23, 1900.



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF
W. F. CLAYTON, SECRETARY,
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURVIVORS
OF THE
CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY.

FLORENCE, S. C., Mch. 13, 1900.

Second Lieut. Dabney M. Scales, Commanding Survivors of the Confederate States Navy, Memphis, Tenn.:

I have the honor to report, that under instructions from the organization perfected in Charleston, South Carolina, in May last and known as the Survivors of the Confederate States Navy, I mailed to the address of one hundred and thirty of our Shipmates as furnished by Shipmate Lieut. H. B. Littlepage, a Circular, the object of which was to get the

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age, residence and service of each surviving officer, embracing the trying period between 1861 and 1865. To get the build, class and armament of every vessel composing our little Navy. To get description and account of cruises, engagements and services, with other items of interest relating to our Navy. In other words, to collect the data, from which a history, authentic and reliable, could be written of the Confederate States Navy. To this Circular, I received about fifty responses, some going into full details and presenting the most pleasant and entertaining reading matter and historical data, while the majority replied but briefly, all however enthusiastic over its aims and object. Some ten or fifteen came back to me marked "uncalled for" while from some fifty or sixty no response was ever received.

As I am dependent upon my profession for a livelihood, I could

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only devote such time as I could spare to digesting and putting in proper shape the material furnished me, and had made little headway when it was all destroyed by fire when my office with two-thirds of the business portions of the city of Florence went up in smoke last fall; I was away at the time and the contents of my office were consumed.

Appended and forming a part of this report is a list of the names of those who answered the Circular, a few having escaped my memory are regretfully omitted. The rank given each is taken from the Register compiled by the U. S. Navy Department.

To one who was educated in the service of the Confederate States and witnessed the many seemingly insurmountable obstacles overcome by courage and persistence, the word despair is not in his vocabulary, and I shall again devote my-

self to the pleasant task of again collecting this valuable data, with the hope and confidence that the responses to be received from my old comrades, will be fuller and more elaborate than those lost. The extreme ignorance of the people regarding the Confederate States Navy is deplorable, and a knowledge of the many acts of daring of that little band is all that is necessary to insure proper recognition. That history is locked in the breasts of the survivors; nearly all our records were destroyed when Richmond was evacuated, and we alone are its depository. Shall oblivion claim it, or will we do our duty to posterity and to our immediate offsprings, by divulging it? We commenced the war with nothing that we could in self respect style a Navy, so far as material and ships were concerned, though as to officers we had the flower of the U. S. Navy. We had Ingraham, who at Smyrna,

humbled the Austrians' pride, we had Hollins, who bombarded Greytown, as a punishment for an insult to the Stars and Stripes, we had Tattnal, who in Chinese waters proclaimed that "blood was thicker than water" and towed from under the guns of a Chinese fort a becalmed English frigate which was being destroyed, we had Lynch whose participation in and description of cutting out expeditions and hand to hand fights with Pirates in the West Indies, was the incentive that warmed the life blood of the average midshipman, we had Buchanan, Forrest, Lee, Maury, Semmes and a host of others, young and old, all of whom added to the record that they had made in the old Navy and she lustre upon the new. To us is left the legacy of preserving their records and enshrining their memories.

My idea is to collect and prepare data, which we will give to any and

every publisher of a School History of the United States, rather than write a separate history, then the child takes it in as a part of his education, to be remembered and transmitted to others as the traditions of old. Some of the many acts of daring on the part of Confederate States Navy officers, taking their surroundings into consideration, sounds more like romance than reality. The gallant defence by a few armed tug boats in the waters of North Carolina, under Lynch, against the immense fleet that had come to take Roanoke Island; the gallant fight of Saturday and Sunday in Hampton Roads, where a little fleet carrying 27 guns, commanded by Buchanan, demoralized, destroyed and put to flight a fleet carrying over 200 guns; the gallant stand of a few ill equipped gunboats below and above New Orleans, against overwhelming odds; the heroic re-

sistance of one Confederate iron clad and a few small wooden vessels in Mobile Bay, against a half dozen Monitors and innumerable wooden ships, where Buchanan, the commander at Hampton Roads, surrendered only after he had inflicted more damage on the enemy in men and guns than his whole little fleet mustered, and when his ship could no longer be fought; the noble fight of the iron-clad Atlanta, under Webb, against great odds, below Savannah; the noble record of the Albemarle, Commander Cooke, at Plymouth, N. C. ; the putting to flight at Charleston of the whole blockading fleet by Ingraham; the capture of the Satelite and Reliance in the Rappahanock river and the Underwriter at Newbern, N. C., by John Taylor Wood, and his subsequent cruise on the New England coast in the Tallahassee, the capture of the Water Witch, where the gal-

lant Pelot fell just as victory was assured; the cruise of the Sumter, the Alabama, the Florida and the Shenandoah, besides the many other acts of daring performed by the officers and men of the Confederate States Navy, all demand a place in history.

Then again our little fleet in different waters had considerable influence on military matters, and saved many of our seaports from early capture, besides controlling to some extent the movements of the U. S. forces.⁴ That none of this shall be lost, I will continue to give my services, and, while my resources are meagre, will continue to bear the expense, only asking in return of my shipmates, that they at once give me all the data they have regarding any and everything connected with our gallant little Navy; if only the description of some gunboat, give it to me and to those who were more for-

tunate than others and participated in some of the many engagements fought in the four years by our Navy. Give me full description, don't rely upon others, let every one write, and by comparison a better and truer account can be obtained. It is the parts that make the whole, so, Shipmates, write at once and unfold all that you know whether some individual act, or an expedition or engagement.

To you, Commander, this is a report. To each of our Shipmates who receives a copy it is an earnest appeal to contribute what he knows of the Confederate States Navy; to those knowing the address of any not included in the list, let me know and I will send a copy, and to all who receive, communicate with me at once, with the common design to perpetuate the memory of the deeds of those peerless heroes, who having furled the sails of life, have let go

their anchor in, let us hope, a haven
of rest

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. CLAYTON,

Secretary.

**LIST OF OFFICERS
WHO RESPONDED TO FORMER CIRCULAR
WITH POSTOFFICE.**

COMMANDER:

John Taylor Wood, Halifax, N. S.

FIRST LIEUTENANT:

Richard F. Armstrong, Halifax N. S.
Robert C. Fowle, San Francisco, Cal.
John Grinball, Charleston, S. C.
John R. Hamilton, Chester, S. C.
Francis L. Hoge, Wheeling, West Va.
Hardin B. Littlepage, Washington, D. C.
William H. Murdaugh, Norfolk, Va.
Julia M. Spencer, Annapolis, Md.
W. H. Wall, Saids, Miss

SECOND LIEUTENANT:

Richard H. Baer, Kansas City, Mo.
Joseph P. Claybrook, Louisville, Ky.
William Pinckney Mason, Rockville, Md.
Dabney M. Scales, Memphis, Tenn.
Daniel Trigg, Abingdon, Va.

MASTER:

George D. Bryan, Charleston, S. C.
James C. Long, Tiskilwa, Ill.
Windom R. Mayo, Norfolk, Va.
James W. MacCarrick, Norfolk, Va.

PASSED MIDSHIPMAN:

Thomas M. Berrier, Waynesborough, Ga.
 William F. Blayton, Florence, S. C.
 George A. Joiner, Talladega, Ala.
 Daniel M. Lee, Fredericksburg, Va.
 John T. Mason, Baltimore, Md
 Virginius Newton, Richmond, Va.
 James W. Pogram, Richmond, Va.
 William W. Wilkinson, Charleston, S. C.
 Augustus O. Wright, Jacksonville, Fla.

MIDSHIPMAN:

Clifton R. Breckenridge, Pine Bluff, Ark.
 A. S. Doak, Mossy Creek, Tenn.
 James M. Morgan, Washington, D. C.
 John A. Wilson, Widewater, Va.

MASTER'S MATE:

Arthur C. Freeman, New York City.
 George S. Waterman, Chicago, Ill.

CHIEF ENGINEER.

James H. Tombs, St. Louis, Mo.

1ST. ASS'T ENGINEER.

Benjamin S. Herring, Tallahassee, Fla.

THIRD ASS'T ENGINEER.

Elsbury V. White, Norfolk, Va.

ASSISTANT PAYMASTER

Douglas S. Forrest, Alexandria, Va.
 Lucien C. Jones, Savannah, Ga.

PASSED ASSISTANT SURGEON.

Bennett W. Green, Richmond, Va.

